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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM Ø3,SC Ø1,RSC Ø1,USIA 12,H Ø2,NSC 1Ø,NSAE ØØ,L Ø3,INR Ø7,P Ø

CIA Ø4,DOD Ø1,SP Ø2,SS 35,SAH Ø3,SAL Ø1,IO 21,AID 3Ø,RSR Ø1,

/16Ø W

R 22Ø43ØZ AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5Ø55
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 37,3
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2226

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DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. SAIGON 2393
P. SAIGON 2431
C. SAIGON 3040

1. PRE-RECORDED RADIO TALKS BY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES CONTINUED AUGUST 19 AND 20 WITH APPEARANCES BY NGUYEN VAN DINH, MAI THO TRUYEN, VU HONG KHANH, AND NGUYEN DINH QUAT. IN MOST CASES CANDIDATES REPEATED THEMES OF PREVIOUS PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

2. FIINH, HA THUC KY'S RUNNING-MATE, REITERATED TEN-POINT

PROGRAM WHICH KY PRESNTED AT FIRST TELEVISION APPEARANCE

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AUG 3 (REF A). DINH WAS PRECEDED BY SLATE'S REPRE-
SENTATIVE ON CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, NGUYEN
VAN NGAI, WHO READ BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF KY AND DINH.

3. NGUYEN DINH QUAT GAVE GLOOMY ASSESMENT OF PRESENT STATE
OF THE NATIION, SPEAKING OF WIDESPREAD HOOLIGANISM, INJUSTICE,
CORRUPTION, AND GENERAL INSECURITY IN BOTH CITIES AND
COUNTRYSIDE. QUAT CHARGED THAT DIEM AND ALL YDCCEEDING
REGIMES HAVE LACKED POPULAR BASE AND RELUD ON FOREIGNERS
AND USE OF FORCE TO REMAIN IN POWER. IF ELECTED, QUAT
PROMISED, HE WOULD ESTABLISH PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND REUNIFY
THE COUNTRY.

4. MAI THO TRUYEN READ A SPEECH ON "THE RESTORATION OF
NATIONALAUTHORITYWZ WHICH TRUYEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE
THREE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF HIS SLATE'S PLATFORM. (THE
OTHER TWO ARE "AN ALL OUT EFFORT TOWARDS PEACE" AND
"BUILDING A FREE, JUST AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY.") TRUYEN
SAID MAJOR OBSTACLE TO NATIONAL AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE IS
WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION. HE DEFINED CORRUPTION AS "BRIBERY
AND EXTOREXTORATION BY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS, DEFIANCE OF THE

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 3705 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
RULES, INDISCIPLINE AND DISORDER ... AND USING PUBLIC
POSITION OR FUNDS TO PROMOTE PERSONAL INTERESTS." TRUYEN
SAID CORRUPTION CREATES EVER WIDENING GULF BETWEEN GOVERN-
MENT AND THE PEOPLE "LIKE A DECADENT FAMILY IN WHICH
MEMBERS DO NOT SPEAK TO EACH OTHER AND NO ONE HAS AUTHORITY
OVE THE OTHER ..."

5. TRUYEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT GENUINELY HONEST AND
ONPULARLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO RESTORE NATIONAL
AUTHORITY, AN AUTHOIRTY FOUNDED ON THE CONSENT OF THE
GOVERNED AND NOT ON DICTATORSHIP OR TYRANNY. THE
ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTE OF A POPULARLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT,
SAID TRUYEN, SHOULD BE VIRTUE. PAST GOVERNMENTS HAVE
"EMPHASIZED ALENT AT EXPENSE OF VIRTUE, CAUSING A DEIAY
IN MORALITY ... HISTORY HAS PROVEN THA WHEN MORALITY
PREVAILS IN ANY ERA OR ANY COUNTRY, THAT COUNTRY ENJOYS

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PEACE AND PROSPERITY." THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, TRUY N CONTINUED, HAVE LONG BEEN IMBUED WITH SPIRIT OF VIRTUE WHICH MUST BE REVIVED IN ORDER TO LEAD COUNTRY TO PEACE. "STIRRED BY YOUR SUFFERINGS," TRUYEN CTNCLUDED, "WE TRAN VAN HUONG AND MAI TRO TRUYEN, TEMPORARILY ABANDON OUR

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HUMBLE DAILY EXISTENCE TO BE THE VANGUARD OF THOSE WHO SEEK A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COUNTRY BASED ON DEMOCRACY, VIRTUE, GENEROSITYAND LOVE, SHOULD THE NATION BE WILLING TO ENTRUST US WITH THIS TAKS."

6. VU HONG KHANH REVIEWED HIS REVOLUTIONARY RECORDS AND REMINDED LISTENERS OF HOA HOA BACKGROUND OF HIS RUNNING-MATE DUONG TRUNG DONG. KHANG INDIRECTLY CRITICIZED GVN BY EXPRESSING SURPRISE THAT "THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO FAVOR LIMITING CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND WANT TO HINDER DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY." KHANH STRESSED NEED FOR HONORABLE AND LASTING PEACE AND CRITICIZED THOSE " WHO EXPLOIT PEOPOES' THIRST FORHE CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL FOR RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE AS WELL AS ESTABLISHME ' OF EDUCATION SYSTEM SUITED TO DEMANDS OF 20TH CENTURY.

7. NEXT RADIO TALKS SCHEDULED FOR AUG 26 BY SLATES OF HOANG CO BINH AND TRUONG DINH DZU.

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ACTION SS 70

INFO NSCE 00, CIAE 00, SSO 00, DODE 00, USIE 00, NSAE 00, CCO 00, 7070 W

P R 221240Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5101
INFO CINCPAC

Saigon 3728
8/22/67

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3728

LIMDIS

SUBJ: TRAN VAN HUONG'S VIEWS

1. FLOTT, WHO HAD WORKED RATHER CLOSELY WITH HUONG DURING HIS PREMIERSHIP, CALLED ON HIM AUGUST 21.

2. HUONG, WHO WAS NORMALLY TIRED AFTEDAY'S CAMPAIGINING, APPEARED FIT AND OFFERED FOLLOWING VIEWS:

A. REAL PROBLEMS WILL COME AFTER ELECTIONS AND REGARDLESS OF WHO WINS. VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE VERY TIRED FROM 20 YEARS OF WAR AND REPEATED DISAPPOINTMENTS AT HANDS OF SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE NOT LIVED UP TO THEIR PROMISES.

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B. IN US PEOPLE VOTE ON BASIS OF ISSUES; IN VIETNAM ON BASIS OF CANDIATES'S REPUTATION. HIS MAIN JOB IS TO SHOW HIMSELF TO VOTERS. SINCE HE IS OLD, THIS TIRES HIM AND HE CAN DO ONLY SO MUCH AND PROBABLY NOT ENOUGH OF IT. ON OTHER HAND, HE DOES NOT HAVE TO SPEAK MUCH. ERWODS KNOW HIM AND LIKE HIM BECAUSE OF REPUTATION.

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C. SINCE HE BELIEVES IN BEING FRANK WITH OLD FRIENDS, HE IWLL NOT PRETEND THAT HE THINKS HE WILL WIN. HE DOES NOT. BUT HE FEELS ELECTIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR VIETNAM AND PEOPLE WHO WANT TO VOTE FOR HIS REPUTATION AND QUALITIES SHOULD BE GVIEN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. WILL RUN AS HARD AS HE CAN UNTIL THE END. NO HINT OF ANY INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING.

D. THIEU IS "REASONABLY ABLE AND FAIRLY HONEST". TROUBLE IS THAT THIEU WOULD SIMPLY BE FRONT MAN FOR KY. PROSPECT OF KY HAVING THE REAL POWER IS DISURBING INDEED AND WILL BE ONE MORE MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT FOR VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, WHO WILL NEVER RALLY AROUND KY. (FLOTT INDICATED HE QUESTIONFD WHETHER KY WOULD BE THE REAL POWER IF THIEU TICKET WON, NOTED EXTEND OF THIEU'S SUPPORT AMONG THE MILITARY.)

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3. HUONG MADE O RECRIMINATION OF ANY SORT, NO HINT OF REFERENCE TO SUCH SUBJECTS AS ALLEGED US MEDDLING, PROSPECTS OF DISHONEST ELECTIONS, ETC.

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ACTION SS 70

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,/070 W

P R 221140Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5095
INFO CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3869
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2230

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3722

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 3631

1. CIVILIAN DIRECTORATE MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TOAN VIET BLOC TRAN VAN AN AUGUST 22 TOLD EMBOFF THAT GENERAL KY IS SUPPORTING SENATE SLATES TWO, FOUR, FIVE, EIGHT, THIRTY

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AND THIRTY-TWO. HE OBSERVED THAT GENERAL THIEU IS NOT IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THIS SELECTION OF SENATE SLATES, BUT KY IS PUSHING AHEAD DESPITE THIEU'S OPPOSITION. AN CLAIMS THAT THIEU FAVORS HIS SLATE, NUMBER 33, BUT KY WILL NOT SUPPORT THE AN SLATE BECAUSE AN OFTEN OPPOSED KY IN DIRECTORATE MEETINGS IN THE PAST.

2. AN BELIEVES THAT KY IS WORKING VERY HARD TO INSURE THE ELECTION OF A SENATE WHICH HE CAN CONTROL. ACCORDING TO AN, KY'S INTENTION IS TO AMEND THE CONSITUTION SO AS TO MAKE

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IT LEGAL FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT TO ACT AS PRIME MINISTER. TO EFFECT SUCH AN AMENDMENT WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE CONTROL OF THE LEGISLATURE. AN SAID THAT IF ELECTED HE WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO BLOCK SUCH A MOVE.

3. ASKED IF THE TOAN VIET BLOC WILL NOT WORK FOR THE ELECTION OF THE THIEU-KY SLATE, AN SAID THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE BLOC INDEPENDENT. HE SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THE BLOC WILL NOT WORK FOR THE ELECTION OF THE THIEU-KY SLATE. NHU PHONG (LE VAN TIENI IS VERY ACTIVE IN THE BLOC AND WILL TRY TO USE IT FOR KY'S ENDS, BUT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BLOC, AN IS DETERMINED

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TO THWART SUCH ATTEMPTS. AN WANTS TO MAKE OF THE BLOC A TRUE NATIONAL PARTY, AND HE PLANS TO PUT FORWARD A NUMBER OF LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BLOC.

4. AN COMPLAINED OF THE EXPENSES OF THE CAMPAIGN AND SAID THAT HE HAS SOLD HIS TELEVISION AND HIS WATCH TO FINANCE HIS CAMPAIGN. HE OBSERVED THAT NHU PHONG PROBABLY HAS MONEY FROM KY, BUT THAT HE REFUSES TO DISCUSS MONEY MATTERS WITH NHU PHONG BECAUSE HE WANTS TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT. HIS AMBITION IS TO BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE.

5. ASKED ABOUT THE SENATE SLATE OF RETIRED GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, AN SAID THAT DON HAS KY'S SUPPORT EVEN THOUGH DON'S SLATE IS NOT ONE OF THE SIX SELECTED FOR GOVERNMENT BACKING. AN DOUBTS THAT DON'S SLATE WILL HAVE ENOUGH POPULAR SUPPORT TO WIN.

6. AN BELIEVES THAT PHAN KHAC SUU HAS RECENTLY GAINED OVER THE OTHER CANDIDATES AND IS NOW STRONGER THAN TRAN VAN HUONG. HOWEVER, AS MATTERS NOW STAND, AN THINKS THAT THIEU-KY WILL WIN THE ELECTION.

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7. COMMENT: (A. AN'S COMMENTS SUGGEST THAT THE CAMPAIGN

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ORGANIZATIONS OF THIEU AND KY ARE STILL FAR APART WITH REGARD TO THE SENATE RACE.

B. AN'S REMARKS TEND TO CONFIRM OTHER REPORTS (REFTEL) THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO MORE OR LESS OPENLY BACK THE SIX SENATE LISTS NUMBERS 2, 4, 4, 8, 30 AND 32. THESE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE ONLY SLATES WHICH WILL RECEIVE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, HOWEVER, AND AN'S REMARKS SUGGEST THE GOVERNMENT IS DIVIDED ON THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE CANDIDATES ALONG THE FAMILIAR THIEU-KY DIVISION.

C. AN'S OBSERVATIONS ALSO TEND TO REINFORCE OUR BELIEF THAT WHILE THE TOAN VIET BLOC MAY ORIGINALLY HAVE BEEN DESIGND AS A KY VEHICLE, IT IS NOW CHARTING AT LEAST A SEMI-INDEPENDENT COURSE..
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ACTION SS 70

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,/070 W

O R 221221Z AUG 67 ZFF1
FM EMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3725
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3873
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2234
CINCPAC

Saigon 3725
8/22/67

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3725

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: STATE 22384 Dil 14 Viet S

1. IN RESPONSE TO OFT-REPEATED CHARGES DURING PAST WEEK THAT MILITARY MEN WILL RECEIVE TWO BALLOTS FOR THE ELECTION, NGUYEN VAN TUONG, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION, MADE A STATEMENT TO VIETNAM PRESS (CARRIED IN MORNING ENGLISH EDITION OF AUGUST 21) THAT "MILITARY VOTERS ARE ALLOWED TO

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REGISTER THEIR NUGES ONLY ONCE AND GRANTED ONE VOTING CARD." ARTICLE ALSO STATED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL PROVINCE CHIEFS AND MAYORS TO ADVISE THEM THAT MILITARY MEN WILL BE CARRIED ON VOTERS' LISTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE UNITS. TUONG INFORMED EMBOFF AUG 22 THAT EACH UNIT COMMANDER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING A VOTERS' LIST OF THE MEN IN HIS UNIT WITH THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND VOTERS' CARDS WERE ISSUED TO THOSE WHOSE NAMES APPEARED ON THE

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SECOND POSTING OF THE UNIT LISTS.

2. OTERS LISTS ARE COMPILED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS, TUONG STATED, IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE WHO ARE AWARE OF PERSONS LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND POLICE WHICH FAMILIES HAVE MILITARY MEN STATIONED ELSEWHERE. ANOTHER SAFETY MEASURE, TUONG ADDED, IS THAT A WIFE OR OTHER MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF A MILITARY MAN CANNOT OBTAIN HIS VOTERS CARD UNLESS THEY PRODUCE HIS IDENTIFY PAPERS. LASTLY, IF A MILITARY MAN SHOWS UP AT THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY WITH AN UNCLIPPED VOTERS CARD, HE MUST, ACCORDING TO TUONG, PRODUCE IDENTIFICATION AS WELL AS AUTHORIZATION TO BE ABSENT FROM HIS UNIT.

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3. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE, TUONG OBSERVED, THAT A SMALL AMOUNT OF DOUBLE-VOTING MAY TAKE PLACEM HOWEVER, EACH CASE WOULD HAVE TO SURMOUNT SEVERAL HURDLES, ONE SIGNIFICANT ONE NOT MENTIONED ABOVE IS THAT MOST MILITARY MEN ASSIGNED TO UNITS ARE AT A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM THEIR HOMES AND IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY THAT MANY OF THEM WOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE AT BOTH THEIR RESIDENCES AND IN THEIR UNITS IN THE SAME DAY.

4. TUONG ALSO REITERATED A POINT HE MADE IN VIETNAM PRESS INTERVIEW THAT, ACCORDING TO ELECTORAL LAW, ANY VOTER WHO ATTEMPTS TO VOTE MORE THAN ONCE WILL BE SUBJECT TO FINE RANGING FROM VN $1,000 TO VN $20,000 AND PRISON TERM OF ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR. FINE WILL BE DOUBLED IF OFFENDER IS CIVIL SERVANT OR MILITARY MAN.

5. TUONG ALSO INFORMED EMBOFF THATLAST BALLOTS TO BE DELIVERED TO PROVINCES WERE SHIPPED TODAY AUG 22. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT VNAF IS NOW HELPING TO DELIVER SENATORAIL CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN MATERIALS TO PROVINCES AS WELL AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' MATERIAL. SEVERAL DAYS AGO TUONG OBSERVED TO

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EMBOFF THAT THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL COMPLAINTS THT GVN WAS NOT

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HELPING TO DISTRIBUTE CAMPAIGN MATERIAL TO OUTLYING AREAS.
TUONG THEREUPON CRITICIZED THE MAJORITY OF CANDIDATES, PRESIDENTIAL AND SENATORIAL, WHO ARE ACTUALLY DOING VERY LITTLE CAMPAIGNING AND RELYING ON GVN TO PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY FACILITIES.
PRESIDENTIAL SLATES HAVE OVER VN $4 MILLION EACH TO USE FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORATION AND SHIPMENT OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS, TUONG SAID.
BUT THEY ARE TRYING TO SPEND AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO POCKET A SIZEABLE PORTION OF CAMPAING FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THEM. TUONG CONCLUDED, "WE CAN ORGANIZE THE ELECTIONS BUT WE CANNOT CAMPAIGN FOR THE CANDIDATES, THAT IS ONE JOB THEY MUST DO THEMSELVES."
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